

STEIN FINANCIAL SERVICES

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January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

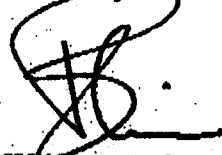
I am writing you regarding the Microsoft case and the settlement. I am a business owner, shareholder and customer of Microsoft. In fact I am writing you this letter using Microsoft Word. I do not type but this software has allowed me to learn.

This is just one of the many software products we use in our business. Microsoft products have made all Americans more productive and have contributed a great deal to the success of our economy. There competitors could not handle this so they use the courts to compete and now we taxpayers cover the costs.

American business is based on free enterprise, why should Microsoft not be allowed to market their product without sharing their secrets. Does Coca Cola have to give away their formula? The current settlement, which I believe will limit Microsoft is fair. They have agreed to share their sources codes and interface design and not enter into any obligatory contracts, thus allowing third parties to offer other products on computers.

I am an independent businessperson, I run my own company, and Microsoft products have allowed me to build a successful company using their products and innovations. Please uphold the settlement for the good of our economy and the computer industry. It is time to put an end to the waste of taxpayer money and this controversy.

Sincerely,



William A. Stein, CLU, ChFC
Registered Investment Advisor

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